

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



Introduction

- In Revelation 21 it is like coming home from a long journey!
- Our citizenship is not of this world – Phil 3:20
- We are told to set our affection on the things above! – Col 3:2
- C.S. Lewis called this world a ‘shadowland’
- Abraham knew that this world was just temporary...

Our Eternal Home

- 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
- 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
- 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10

Our Eternal Home

- The place described here is the culmination of every longing & desire ever known!
- The world continually seeks the bright lights of the city..
- This is it! This is the City!
 - And its Light is brighter than we can imagine!
- Although only a glimpse is given, God reveals just enough to wet our appetites
- This is reality and not a dream, albeit a reality beyond our wildest dreams.

Inheritance of the Saints

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us
meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in
light:

Colossians 1:12

- *hikanoo* (hik-an-o'-o); to enable, i.e. qualify:

Inheritance of the Saints

For those in Christ:

- We know we are assured Salvation
- We are promised rewards for faithfulness
- But in addition to rewards...
- We now qualify to receive an inheritance
- That inheritance is reserved for us in heaven

Inheritance of the Saints

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:3-4

- What are we to inherit?
- Can we know?

Most misquoted verse?

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,
neither have entered into the heart of man, the things
which God hath prepared for them that love him...

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Isaiah 64:4

Most misquoted verse?

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

- What has God revealed to us?
- What are we to inherit?

The Promises of God

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:4

- Perspective affects performance
- God's promises give us perspective

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Chapter 21

The Eternal Order

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:1

- When will this occur?

Timings

Second Coming



Daniel's
70th
Week
(Time of
Wrath)

Jesus Rules from
David's throne in
Jerusalem

1000yr



A New Heavens & Earth

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2 Peter 3:10-13

A New Heavens & Earth

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13

- Perspective affects performance
- God's promises give us perspective

11 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:1

A New Beginning

- Radically different
- 70% of the face of the earth is water (2.3m dpth)
- The reason for the hydro-system
- 1.5 trillion tones of rainfall every day
- How will this affect the trees?
- Will they have roots?
- Will the leaves be multi-coloured?
- How will the new system work?

A New Beginning

- Why “no more sea”?
- Not needed for its cleansing action
- It provides salt
- It purges, cleanses, and preserves our planet.
- In other words, it acts like the lungs, liver, and kidneys of the earth.
- The new system will be perfect

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

- This revelation is so incredible
- So overwhelming
- So breathtaking
- John assures us of its validity

John – Apostle & Friend

- ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;
- ² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1 John 1:1-5

John – Apostle & Friend

- 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
- 5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:1-5

- John is not interested in fiction, but that which is verifiable

2 And I John saw the **holy city**, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

- ‘Holy’ & ‘city’ rarely associated
- ‘Inner city’ associated with problems
- The closer we get to the centre of this city, the better it gets!
- New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven
- From God – delights to give His best
- As a bride adorned – perfect and ready

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will
dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God
himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:3

- Last ‘great voice’ 21x
- ‘*Declaration of great importance*’
- God’s desire from before the foundation of the world

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
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Revelation 21:3

- Last ‘great voice’ 21x
- ‘*Declaration of great importance*’
- God’s desire from before the foundation of the world
- ‘Tabernacle’ (John 1:14) Incarnation / Second Coming

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4

- First action of God – wipe away our tears

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Revelation 21:5

- ‘genuine & dependable’

⁶ And he said unto me, **It is done.** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Revelation 21:6

God's Will

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Ephesians 1:9-10

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Revelation 21:6

- ‘let him come and drink undeservedly’
- Contrast the ungodly – (Luke 16)

Eternal Thirst

- 22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
- 23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- 24** And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Luke 16:22-24

Eternal Thirst

- The rich man wants his thirst satisfied
- Yet he has no physical body!
- Sin promises that which it cannot deliver
- It will always leave you unfulfilled
- It will always leave you unsatisfied
- It can never appease a longing
- It will leave you eternally thirsty

Eternal Thirst

Sin will:

Take you further than you wanted to go
Keep you longer than you wanted to stay
Cost you more than you wanted to pay!

In contrast...

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:7

The Blessing of Sonship

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God

1 John 3:1

8

But the fearful,^{*} and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21:8

* Cowardly

Born twice, die once

Born once, die twice

God's Rules

- Fearful – cowardly
- Unbelieving – ‘I’m a good person...’
- Abominable – ‘to stink’ anything abhorrent
- Murderers – ‘even hatred in the heart’
- Whoremongers – ‘sexually immoral’
- Sorcerers – ‘*pharmakia*’ – drugs
- Idolaters – making a god to suite yourself
- Liars – size & colour not specified!

Hell?

- Is Hell an allegory/symbolism?
- Some teach it is not a real place
- Some teach annihilation
- Jesus taught more of Hell than any other single doctrine
- He taught it was a real, eternal Hell – where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched! (Mk 9:44)

"In Hell thou shalt have none but a company of damned souls with an innumerable company of devils to keep company with thee. While thou art in this world the very thought of the devils appearing to thee makes thy flesh to tremble and thy hair stand upright on thy head.



*"But O what wilt thou do when not only the
supposition of the devils appearing but the real
society of all the devils of Hell will be with thee;
howling, roaring and screeching in such a hideous
manner that thou will be even at thy wits end and
ready to run stark mad again for anguish and
torment.*



"If after 10,000 years an end should come, there would be comfort. But here is thy misery; here thou must be forever. When thou seest what an innumerable company of howling devils thou art amongst, thou shalt think this again; this is my portion forever.



"When thou hast been in Hell so many thousand of years as there are stars in the firmament or drops in the sea or sands on the seashore, yet thou has to lie there forever. Oh this one word 'ever' how will it torment thy soul. And many are in the net moving toward that furnace of fire."

John Bunyan

"Have you no wish for others to be saved?
Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of
that."

C H Spurgeon

"He knows not the Grace of God who has no desire that others should know it, also. You will assuredly long for the souls of others if God has saved your soul"

C H Spurgeon

⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:9-10

- Destination of the saints

Destination of the Saints

- ⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
- ⁹ By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
- ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10

Destination of the Saints

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

Hebrews 12:18-24

Destination of the Saints

- 21** And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)
- 22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- 23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- 24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:18-24

11

Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Revelation 21:11-12

Shekinah Glory

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34- 35

Shekinah Glory

- ¹ Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.
- ² And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

Shekinah Glory

³ And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

- 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:
- 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.
- 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:12-14

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Revelation 21:15-16

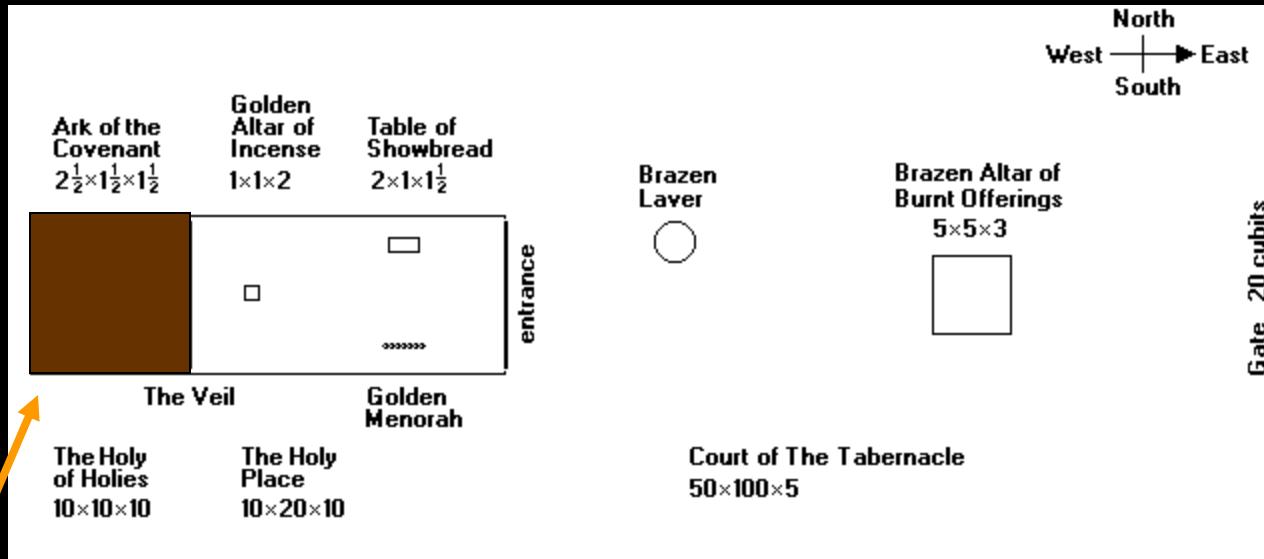
New Jerusalem

- Twelve thousand furlongs?
- 1,500 miles
- Cube?
- Pyramid?
- Pyramid often associated with false worship
- However, God has used Cubes in His models

The Tabernacle



The Tabernacle

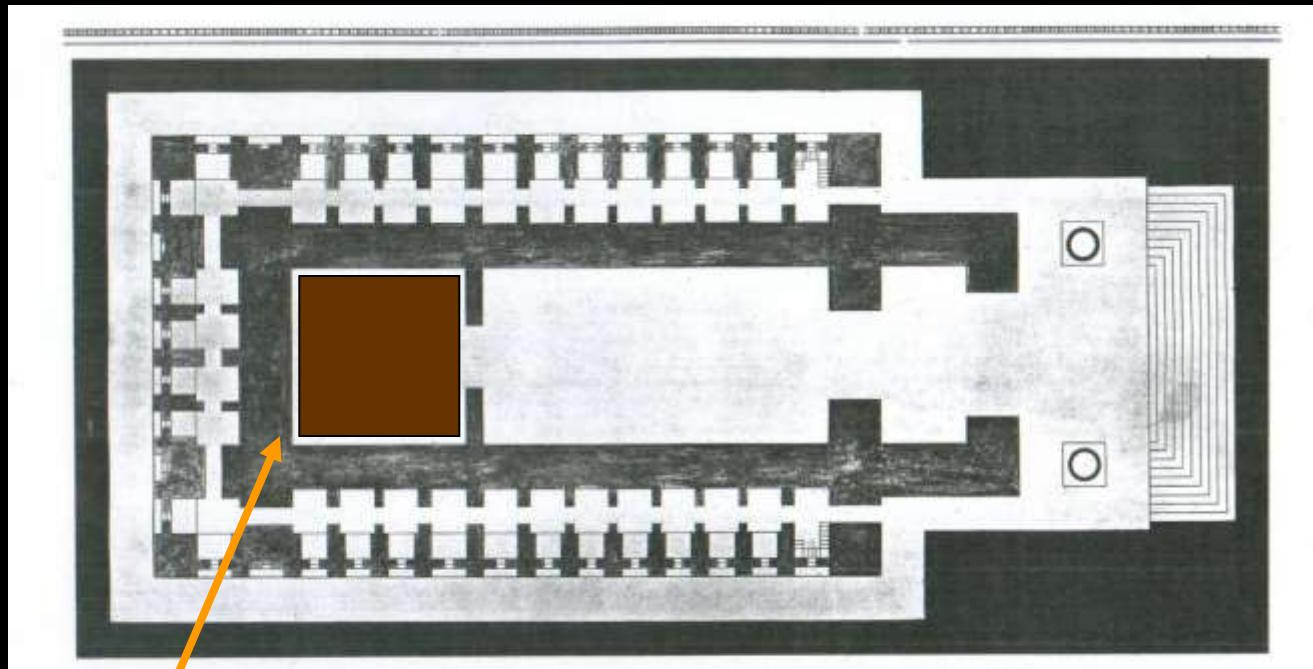


Holy of Holies (15ft x 15ft x 15ft)

The Temple



The Temple



Holy of Holies (30ft x 30ft x 30ft)

Ancient Babylon



- 15 x 15 miles
- Poor imitation – man's best?
- New Jerusalem 1500 miles²!

1500 x 1500 miles



17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

Revelation 21:17-18

The City's Wall

- Cubit = the distance from elbow to the forefinger (1/2 Meter or 18")
- But, this is measured against the stature of an angel.
- $144 \times \frac{1}{2} = 122$ meters (400 ft) Thick
- Walls made from solid Jasper
- City of pure gold - transparent

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

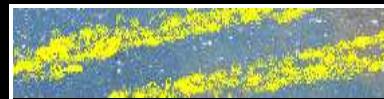
Revelation 21:19-21

The City's Adornment

- Walls = Jasper
- City = Pure gold, like clear glass
- Foundation = 12 Stones
(Like the High Priest's Breastplate Ex 28)
- Gates = Pearl
(Symbol of the Gentiles)
- Streets = Pure gold, like glass

Foundation Stones

- Jasper
- Sapphire
- Chalcedony
- emerald
- Sardonyx
- Sardius

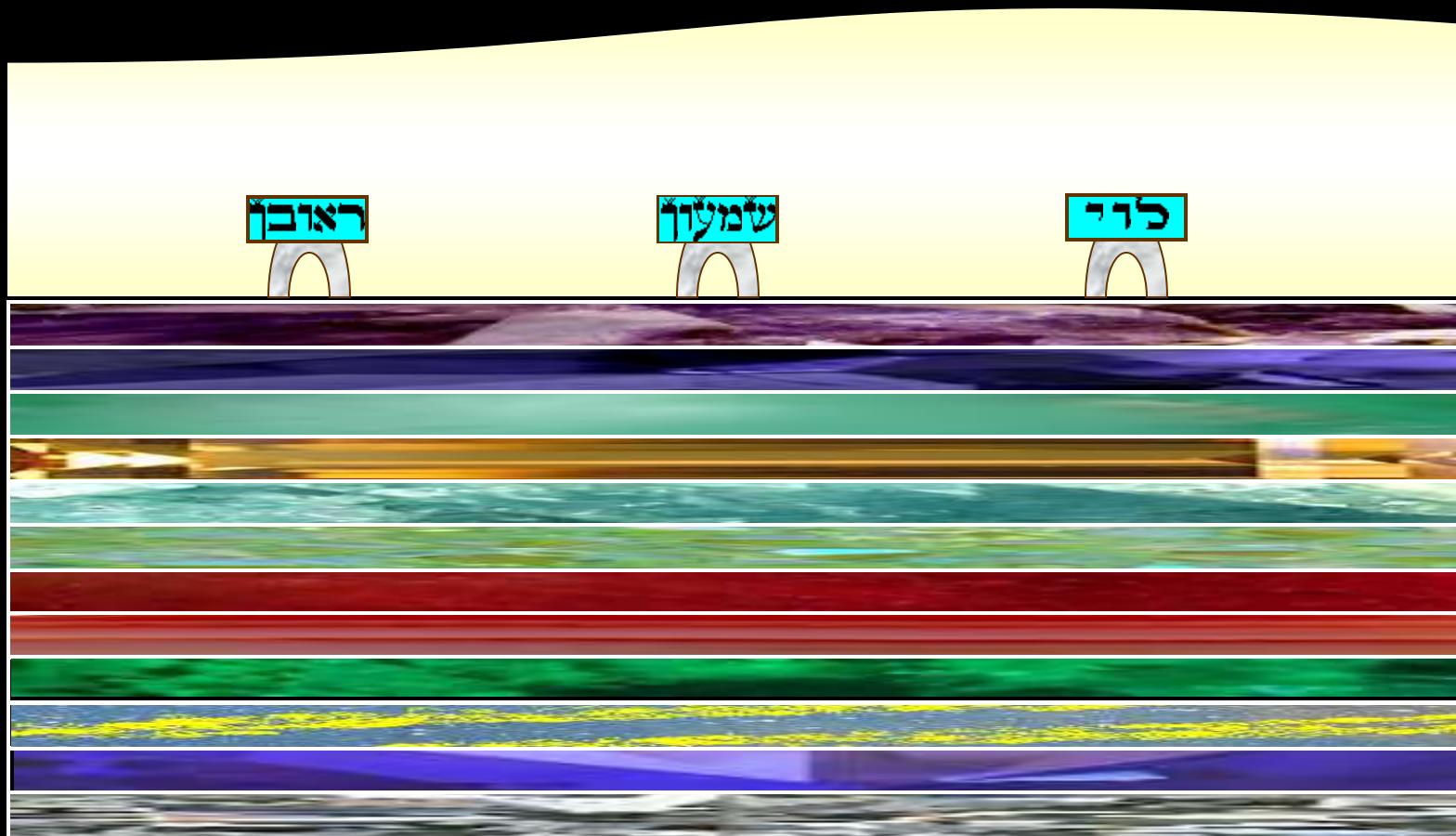


Foundation Stones

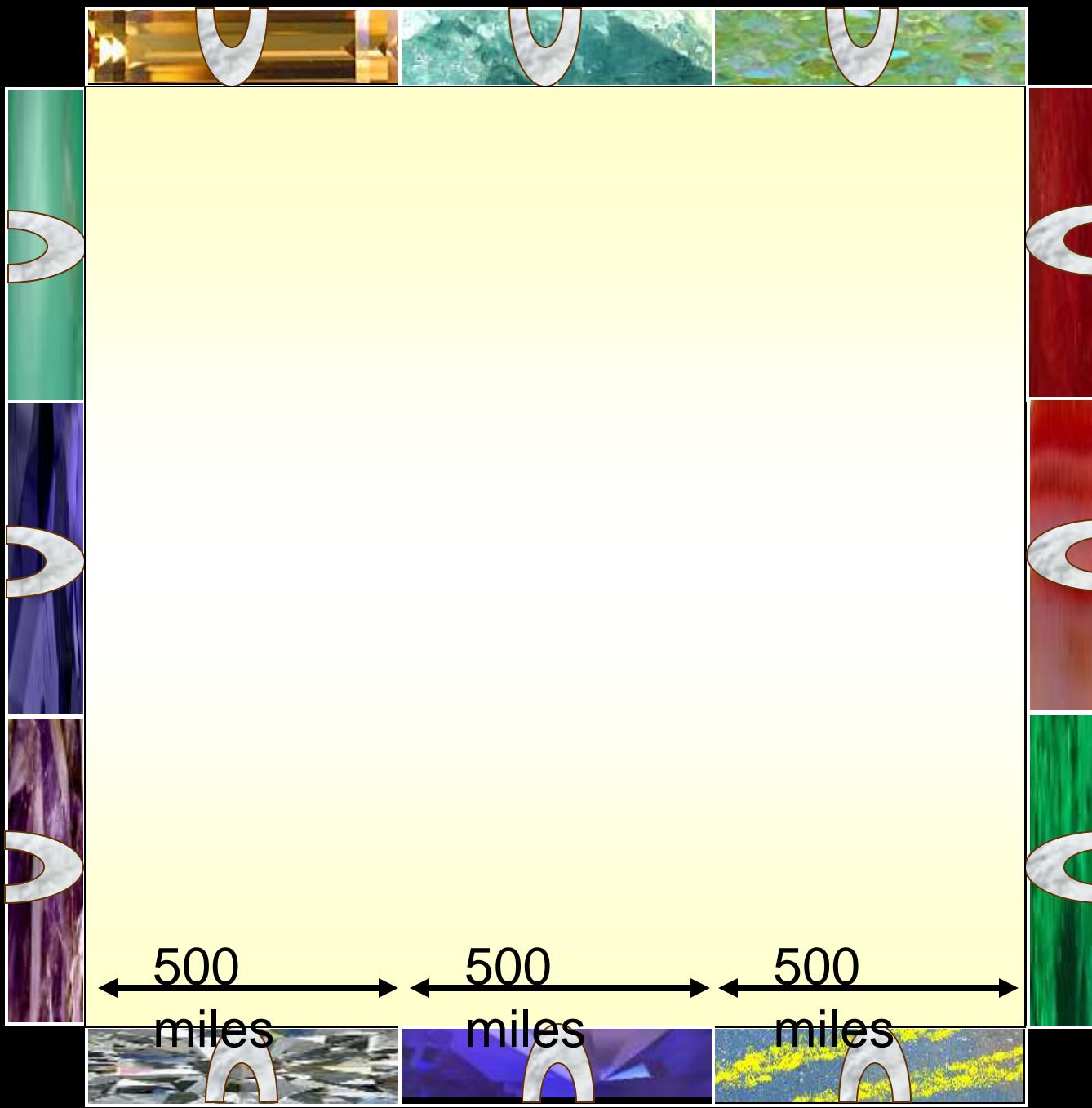
- Chrysolite
- Beryl
- Topaz
- Chrysoprasus
- Jacinth
- amethyst



Foundation Stones



1500
miles



21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Revelation 21:21

Note: St Peter is NOT standing at the gates!

- Our entrance is not dependant on if we have been good or bad –
- But on our standing with Jesus Christ
- We will face Him as our LORD or JUDGE

- 22** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
- 23** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **the Lamb is the light thereof.**

Revelation 21:19-20

Light

- ¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- ³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1-4

Light

Verse 3

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

rwa yhyw rwa yhy myhl a rmayw
‘owr hayah ‘owr hayah Eloheim amar

light be light be Eloheim Said
(God)

Genesis 1:3

And God said, ‘Let light be light’

And God said, ‘Let The Light illuminate’

Light

- For the Light to now illuminate..
- It had to already exist

Light

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:6

- Light was therefore pre-existent

Light

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace,
and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 45:7

Light

I form the light, and **create** darkness: I make peace,
and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 45:7

arb
870

bara (create out of
nothing)

Light

I **form** the light, and **create** darkness: I make peace,
and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 45:7

רָאַתְּ yatsar

(mould into a form)

KJV - **earthen,**
fashion, **form,**
frame, **make,** **potter,**
purpose.

בָּרָא
bara

bara (create out of
nothing)

The Light of the world

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying:
I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall
not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

The Light of the world

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him,
and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no
darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

The Light of the world

- Light was pre-existent in the person of Jesus Christ
- God commanded the Light to shine
- The Light simply then illuminated
- Jesus Christ – the pre-existent One – who is the Light, created all things

Symmetry of Design

- Each particle has an antiparticle

particle + antiparticle  annihilation + photon

- Physicists suggest this is a reversible reaction
- The implication...
- Light could have created matter!

The Light of the world

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1-5

The Light of the world

- ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:1-12

The Light of the world

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him,
and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to
become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his
name:

John 1:1-12

- 22** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
- 23** And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 21:19-20

The Light of the world

¹⁹ The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

²⁰ Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah 60:19-20

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Revelation 21:24

The Nations?

Who compose the nations?

- 1) The Tribulations Martyrs
- 2) Those born during the Millennium
- 3) The ‘Sheep’ nations (cf Matt 25)

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:25-27

NB: That's why it's perfect!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...